Opening of Internet/Cyber Cafes

234. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans or proposals to open Internet/Cyber Cafes, direct under VSNL and BSNL management in all cities of the country;

(b) whether Government realize the revenue generation potential from such cafes throughout the country; and

(c) if so, by when, Government would put in effect such a plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) does not have any plans, as of now to open Internet/ Cyber Cafes in all cities of the country. However, appreciating the potential of such Internet/Cyber Cafes/ Kiosks, BSNL offers very attractive incentives to any entrepreneur who wishes to set up such a kiosk.

As regards VSNL, it is now a private company and plans, if any, in this regard, are at the sole discretion of the VSNL management.

Slashing of Net Charges

235. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to slash the dial-up charges for logging on the net;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have reduced the charges for day time logging on the net and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As per TRAI Act 1997, as amended